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Recreation Commission Minutes 02/13/2007

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, February 13, 2007
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Joe Carabello and Nancy Campbell. Also in attendance were Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Landscape Architect Andrew Leonard.

Members of the public included David Berry and Richard Goldberg.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of January 9, 2007. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. Campbell seconded the motion, minutes approved 3-0.

Review Menotomy Rocks Park Final Plan

Mr. Leonard reviewed the final plan for the renovation of Menotomy Rocks Park with the Commission. Mr. Leonard explained that he hopes to have the bid ready by the end of the month with construction beginning in May. Mr. Leonard will put a construction completion date on the project of September 1st.

Mr. Leonard explained that DPW will be providing the granite curbing for the beach area. Mr. Leonard estimates that this will save the project between 10-15 thousand dollars. Mr. Leonard reviewed the results of the pump test for the well, stating that the well is pumping out 41 gallons a minute, which is well over the 20-25 gallon requirement for an irrigation system.

Mr. Leonard continued to review the plans with the Commission pointing out several open items that need to be addressed:

Automatic switch or manual switch for the well to maintain the necessary water table in the pond

Follow-up meeting with Conservation Commission – Mr. Connelly will try to arrange

Finalize the area for the compressor and motor for the well aerator pump. Options will include in the existing manhole adjacent to the backfield with an open cover or in a self contained box near the pathway at the base of the hill. Mr. Leonard will look into both options and bring that concern to the Conservation Commission

Mr. Leonard reviewed that the only fencing off of the construction site would take place at the rear field upon completion and any open excavation areas. The contractor will also have the option to fence off an area for overnight equipment storage. Mr. Connelly reminded Mr. Leonard to include employee-parking restrictions in the specs.

Mr. Leonard explained that cul tech chambers would be replacing the drywell systems and that the picture posts would be set in the same areas within the park. Mr. Leonard reviewed several concerns and comments from the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park with the Commission. The Commission and Mr. Leonard discussed these concerns and possible solutions to them.

Mr. Leonard indicated that the Department of Public Works would like to see a backflow preventer for the irrigation system.

Mr. Leonard reviewed the Jason Street entrance plans with the Commission. Mr. Leonard will include two bid alternates in the project. The first alternate would be to widen the opening of the entrance way and the second would be to include a gate. Ms. Mayer asked that the gate be able to be locked using a pin mechanism and not a chain.

The Commission, Mr. Leonard and Mr. Goldberg discussed construction oversight. Mr. Leonard and the Commission agreed that he would be providing weekly construction oversight of the project through weekly construction meetings and that Mr. Connelly would be the day-to-day point person. The Commission discussed the best way to solicit feedback from the abutters and FoMRP and to facilitate communication. It was suggested that a point person be named from FoMRP and that weekly meeting be arranged between themselves and Mr. Connelly. These meeting would be before the normally scheduled construction meetings so that questions could be proposed to the contractor and Mr. Leonard.

The Commission reviewed some more of the existing plan with Mr. Leonard. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the pending the meeting with the Conservation Commission and any relevant changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 3-0.

Scope of Work Parking Lot Feasibility Study – Summer Street and Thorndike Field

Mr. Leonard discussed the scope of work of the feasibility study with the Commission. Mr. Leonard will review the existing plans with Mr. Connelly.

Ms. Mayer wanted it on the record that the Park Commission did not give permission for the three parking spaces to be paved at the top of Hills Hill adjacent to Summer Street

Bishop Field Playground Project

Mr. Connelly reviewed the information supplied to him by the Bishop School Playground Committee. The Commission pointed out that drainage and site preparation did not seem to be included. Mr. Connelly would mention this to the Bishop School Playground Committee. Mr. Connelly stated that he would be asking Andrew to review the playground plans as their project moved further along. Mr. Connelly explained that their Committee has chosen Goric Play Equipment. The Commission did not have any issues with Goric play equipment or the net design as long as it met all current safety commission guidelines.

Town of Arlington Planning Department

Dave Berry of the Planning Department reviewed the planning questionnaire with the Commission stating it was being called a dialogue of Arlington's future. Mr. Berry explained the funding for the project and the need to obtain relevant information. Mr. Berry stated that there would be a series of questions to help solicit feedback in the Arlington Advocate. Mr. Berry stated that there would be a town wide forum on March 1st to solicit public opinion and he encouraged the Commission to attend.

Mr. Berry indicated that it was a goal to look at the development in the last 20-30 years and see how that has affected Arlington today and then see how this is related to where Arlington wants to be.

Mr. Berry thanked the Commission for their time and asked them to please submit their questionnaires to the Planning Department prior to March 1st.

Rink Updates

Mr. Connelly gave a brief rink update outlining the new capital request for a new chiller. Mr. Connelly explained that the funding for the chiller would come from a five-year bond, which would result in a cost of approximately \$30,000 to the Rink Enterprise Funds. Mr. Connelly stated that this expense would directly cause the rink rates to increase by \$15 per rental block. Mr. Connelly stated that a request to the DCR for relief from the current pricing cap has been submitted.

Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly stated the he has offered the position of Recreation Supervisor to Daniel McGrath currently the assistant Recreation Director in Reading, MA. Dan's start date is anticipated to be February 26, 2007.

Special Permit Requests

Relay for Life –Peirce Field – Commission would not take action and asked for request to be submitted to the school department.

Mr. Marquis – Spy Pond Field – Commission is request ion Mr. Marquis to provide more information and come to their next meeting.

Other

The Commission discussed field permitting. The Commission would like any organization that is growing in numbers and adding teams to either inform the Commission in writing or appear before them for discussion.

The Commission discussed current permitting procedures and current permit requests. Mr. Connelly will address their concerns at the Field User meeting on February 27th.

The Commission discussed the need to rest fields and asked Mr. Connelly to meet with DPW to provide the Commission with a recommendation to rest one field this fall. Mr. Connelly will review the Field Rotation Plan.

Ms. Mayer stated that the Friends of Robbins Farm are still looking into alternatives to reface the oval design at the bench area at Robbins Farm and will update the Commission accordingly

Signs

The Commission reviewed the two field signs supplied by Mr. Connelly from DPW. The Commission would like to see a sample of the larger sign with a black background, gold print for the Field Name and Hours (larger font) and white print for the rules.

Respectively Submitted by:

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation